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Canadian Rights and Canadian Independence.

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## HISTORY OF CANADA.

(CONTINUED.)

On the 10th May following, Congress met at the city of Philadelphia, according to their adjournment. Mr. Hancock laid before the Congress a narrative of the affair of Lexington, which had taken place on the 19th April previous. In consequence of this unwarranted attack upon the people, Congress resolved to repel force by force. On the 26th May, Messrs. Jay, Deane and S. Adams, were appointed a committee to prepare and draft a letter to the people of Canada, inviting them to join the American people in their struggle against oppression. The next day the address to the Canadian people was read to Congress and was recommitted, but on the 29th it was read anew and approved of. It was framed in the following words:—

TO THE OPPRESSED INHABITANTS OF CANADA.

Friends and Countrymen,

Alarmed by the designs of an arbitrary ministry, to extirpate the rights and liberties of all America, a sense of common danger conspired with the dictates of humanity, in urging us to call your attention, by our late address, to this very important object.

Since the conclusion of the late war, we have been happy in considering you as fellow-subjects, and from the commencement of the present plan for subjugating the continent, we have viewed you as fellow sufferers with us. As we were both entitled by the bounty of an indulgent Creator to freedom, and being both devoted by the sacred edicts of a despotic administration, to common ruin, we perceived the fate of the Protestant and Catholic colonies to be strongly linked together, and therefore invited you to join with us in resolving to be free, and in rejecting, with disdain, the fetters of slavery, however artfully polished.

We most sincerely condole with you on the arrival of that day, in the course of which, the sun could not shine on a single freeman in all your extensive dominions. Be assured, that your unmerited degradation has engaged the most unfeigned pity of your sister colonies; and we flatter ourselves you will not, by tamely bearing the yoke, suffer that pity to be supplanted by contempt.

When hardly attempts are made to deprive men of rights bestowed by the Almighty, when avenues are cut through the most solemn compacts for the admission of despotism, when the plighted faith of government ceases to give security to dutiful subjects, and when the insidious stratagems and manoeuvres of peace become more terrible than the sanguinary operations of war, it is high time for them to assert those rights, and, with honest indignation, oppose the torrent of oppression rushing in upon them.

By the introduction of your present form of government, or rather present form of tyranny, you and your wives and your children are made slaves. You have nothing that you can call your own, and all the fruits of your labor and industry may be taken from you, whenever an avaricious governor and a rapacious council may incline to demand them. You are liable by their edicts to be transported into foreign countries to fight battles in which you have no interest, and to spill your blood in conflicts from which neither honor nor emolument can be derived: Nay, the enjoyment of your very religion, on the present system, depends on a legislature in which you have no share, and over which you have no control, and your priests are exposed to expulsion, banishment, and ruin, whenever their wealth and possessions furnish sufficient temptation. They cannot be sure that a virtuous prince will always fill the throne, and should a wicked or careless king concur with a wicked ministry in extracting the treasure and strength of your country, it is impossible to conceive to what variety and to what extremes of wretchedness you may, under the present establishment, be reduced.

We are informed you have already been called upon to waste your lives in a contest with us. Should you, by complying in this instance, assent to your new establishment, and a war break out with France, your wealth and your sons may be spent to perish in expeditions against their islands in the West Indies.

It cannot be presumed that these con-

siderations will have no weight with you, or that you are so lost to all sense of honor. We can never believe that the present race of Canadians are so degenerated as to possess neither the spirit, the gallantry, nor the courage of their ancestors. You certainly will not permit the infamy and disgrace of such pusillanimity to rest on your own heads, and the consequences of it on your children forever.

We, for our part, are determined to live free, or not at all; and are resolved, that posterity shall never reproach us with having brought slaves into the world.

Permit us again to repeat that we are your friends, not your enemies, and be not imposed upon by those who may endeavor to create animosities. The taking of the fort and military stores at Ticonderoga and Crown Point, and the armed vessels on the Lake, was dictated by the great law of self-preservation. They were intended to annoy us, and to cut off that friendly intercourse and communication, which has hitherto subsisted between you and us. We hope it has given you no uneasiness, and you may rely on our assurances, that these colonies will pursue no measures whatever, but such as friendship and a regard for our mutual safety and interest may suggest.

As our concern for your welfare entitles us to your friendship, we presume you will not by doing us injury, reduce us to the disagreeable necessity of treating you as enemies.

We yet entertain hopes of your uniting with us in the defence of our common liberty, and there is yet reason to believe, that should we join in imploring the attention of our sovereign, to the unmerited and unparalleled oppressions of his American subjects, he will at length be undeceived, and forbid a licentious ministry any longer to riot in the ruins of the rights of mankind.

The president of Congress signed this address, and Messrs. Dickinson and Millin were charged with translating and printing it, and to send 1000 copies to Canada to be distributed among the inhabitants of that province.

To be Continued.

## Du CALVET'S MEMOIR.

[Translated for the North American.]  
(CONTINUED.)

Extract of Mr. Du Calvet's letter to the Canadians.

In the midst of all my misfortunes a friend was found, who by his kindness, lessened the severity of my captivity. Mr. L'Evesque continued his generosity towards me, and even in the very teeth of despotism he never ceased to befriend me, and to declare openly, that I was ill-treated, and Gov. Haldimand never dared to ill-treat him. Mr. Dumas St. Martin, following the dictates of his heart, became the adopted father of my son, who had been left entirely to the care of my servants and who was nearly without clothes, and in the most complete state of emaciation. Mr. DuChesnay opened his purse to stop the sale of my property, which had been seized in consequence of the illegal judgment rendered against me; he even came to my cell and would suffer no one to witness his generosity towards me. Whilst on one hand I was persecuted, on the other hand friends tried all they could to heal the wounds of my bleeding heart.

After my liberation, my friends offered me 2000 guineas to aid me in my misfortunes, and to obtain justice from the administrators of the laws, but I never shall be a burthen to my friends if I can help it.

The history of my imprisonment alone affects, stirs, and undoubtedly, softens kind hearts, but governments never pique themselves upon their tenderness. In our bloody days, the first quality of a minister consists of consummate insensibility; and to judge of ministers generally by their acts we should take them for men entirely destitute of all feeling, and who glory in ceasing to be humane beings. But the history of the captivity of a whole people or of large numbers chained up together, or subject to be put in irons at the mere whim of their governor, ought at least to alarm the administration of the country; because a calamity, a general oppression is always a harbinger of an approaching revolution. Such is the horrible situation under which the province of Quebec has groaned and is yet groaning. I could count by hun-

dreds the companions of my captivity, taken from the most respectable class of the people.

Names of the principal gentlemen who were prisoners with me at Quebec.

Valentine Jautaud,	Lawyer.
Fleuri Mesplet,	Printer.
François Cazeau,	Merchant.
Charles Hay,	do.
Louis Carignan,	do.
Joseph Dufort,	do.
Pellion,	Surgeon.
Burton,	Paker,
Bostic,	
Williams,	
La Terriere,	Director of the Forges.
La Vallee,	Blacksmith,
Jacques Noels,	Shoemaker,
Hamel,	
Cazettey,	
Foucher,	
Liebert, jr.	
Cazeau, jr.	
D'Helzen, jr.	

The inquisitions of Spain and Portugal in the strongest exertions of their monarchical fanaticism, never filled their infernal dungeons with greater rapidity than the state inquisition established at Quebec during the late troubles, filled the military prisons of that city. The mere mention of the name of *Bostonians*, even pronounced with indifference, was a sure passport for a lodging in one of the damp cells. Not only that, but the bare suspicion of not abhorring that name was a crime against the state sufficient to cause at once the incarceration of a citizen. The Canadians were taken by dozens or more at once, and torn from their families; no regard was paid to the tears of a father or a mother, of a wife or of the children who were doomed to certain ruin by the incarceration of their friends. The *Canceaux* (a prison-ship) was very soon overloaded with these victims; such a large number condemned to bad nourishment and to filth, were very soon visited with infectious diseases; contagion was spread all over the ship and would have extended to Quebec, had not the vessel been removed to *Ile d'Orleans* a few miles below the city.

In the midst of all these horrors, as if to increase their ravages, Gen. Haldimand under the pretence of economy, reduced the rations of the prisoners. The Capt. of the prison-ship, recollecting that he belonged to the human species, thought that he could allow one of the prisoners to go and beg on the Island from the inhabitants some victuals to support his unfortunate companions. It was not long before these wretched men were reduced to complete nakedness, perishing with languor and starvation. Vainly in their despair did they petition the Governor for a trial. More than 50 men were condemned to expire in all the agonies of deep misery, rendered a thousand times more horrible by their nudity.

A large number of the prisoners belonging to the respectable class of the citizens, had spent all the resources of their fortunes, to mitigate their sufferings. They were so much reduced as to appear like skeletons, and in their state of complete nakedness were revolting to human nature. Some well-meaning persons inspired by christian charity, went from house to house to solicit donations in favor of the prisoners who were completely destitute. But General Haldimand was not a man for half measures; not satisfied with having diminished the rations allowed by government, he reproved under the strictest prohibitions and threats, this act of charity by the citizens, and condemned these miserable victims to perish by the most horrible and frightful starvation.

The unfortunate *Andre*, a prisoner whose family's name was never known, during a whole year and a half, was reduced to three quarters of a pound of bread and a little water each day in the heat of summer. During the winter, which is long and severe in those northern climates, so much so as to freeze wild beasts in the forests, he was not allowed fire in his cell. His wife at

last found out the abode of his captivity; she came to comfort her husband with some refreshments she had begged with bitter tears; but she was denied the pleasure of seeing him; she was reproached as being guilty of crime against the Government, because she felt for her husband, and was ordered to leave the province. How many other victims were imprisoned in the darkness of damp cells, and died without ever hearing the voice of a friend.

Appropos: Europe has not yet forgotten the history of the 'Iron Mask,' that famous prisoner confined in the Bastille at the latter end of the reign of Louis XIV. Well, there exists yet, or at least there existed when I left Quebec, a prisoner of that description. They had confined him in an apartment of the upper story of the jail, a man of high standing as far as we could judge by some few chances we had of seeing him; the sentry had received orders to fire upon him if he dared to show himself through the iron grates which fastened his windows. Public suspicion in the Province, established belief that this unknown individual was one of those French gentlemen who, in the last troubles, came and staid a short space of time at Quebec, and whose mission is up to this day a political mystery. After having entertained you with the recital of so many inhuman actions, this reflection strikes my mind. France which, according to English notions, is the first despot of the world, thought it her duty to spill the blood of the despotic Lully; there is nevertheless a great difference in the violence which were committed at Pondichery and those which are daily enacted at Quebec, which surpass the former, as well in number as in the darkness of the deeds. What shall be the fate of the governor of Quebec. Time alone will show.

(To be continued.)

[From the Detroit Post.]

PRESENTMENT OF THE GRAND JURY OF DETROIT, (MICH.)—The Grand Jury, empanelled and sworn, on the 18th inst., in the Circuit Court of the United States for the District of Michigan, to enquire into offences against the laws of the Union committed within the district, do present, that under a due sense of their solemn obligations, they have, for ten days, been diligently and laboriously engaged in the execution of the trust confided to them.— Their attention has been engaged in the investigation of a military expedition alleged to have been organized and set on foot, on this side of the river Detroit, against the British Province of Upper Canada, a part of the territorial dominions of a nation with whom the United States are in amity and at peace. That such an expedition, feeble in its means and strength, disjointed in its organization, not united in council, and without specific object of attack, did take place from this to the opposite shore, was sufficiently proved to the Grand Jury: But against none of the survivors of the expedition was the evidence decisive enough to justify the indictment of any of them. In relation to some of those who lost their lives on the occasion, or have since ceased to exist, not much difficulty was experienced in ascertaining their participation in the unlawful expedition of December last: But the business of the grand jury was with the living and not the dead. Failing, therefore, after the examination of sixty witnesses, to bring home, agreeably to law, to any person, the alleged offence of a violation of the peaceful and neutral relations of the United States, they have deemed it their duty simply to present the fact to the court, and to add a few brief reflections upon the subject.

The organization and setting on foot, within the territorial limits of the United States, or in their ports of any military or marine expedition against nations with whom they are at peace, are in direct violation of their own laws, as well as the law of nations. Such an expedition is an act of sovereignty, which no set of men whether citizens or the subjects of a foreign power, can lawfully authorize or carry into execution. It is an act of sovereignty which belongs to the nation in its aggregate capacity alone, or to the government, the legitimate organ of its will, to perform. No principle is better established, none of greater importance, than this, both as regards the domestic peace and the exterior relations of nations. In the early intercourse of the United States, as a sovereign power, with France and Great Britain, this government was often called up-

on to affirm and maintain this great principle, so essential to the supremacy of law at home, and to the preservation of peace abroad. The correspondence of Mr. Jefferson, under the direction of President Washington, with the British and French envoys, is full and conclusive to the point in question. Common sense and common humanity equally inculcate its sacred observance. The domestic tranquility of states, the question of peace or war with their neighboring or distant powers, could never safely be allowed to repose in the hands of a few individuals, without the authority of law, and contrary to its high obligations. The blood and treasure of millions of human beings, the incalculable calamities of war ought never to be committed to the will, to the passions and the resentments, of irresponsible persons, when responsible governments, instituted by the people themselves, have those great interests entrusted to their exclusive charge.

While, however, the grand jury condemn the repeated violation of the neutral laws of the country, and view with deep concern and regret the predatory incursions from our shores into a neighboring province, perceiving in their progress and results nothing but individual suffering, they are free to confess, that their sympathies, in common with those of their fellow citizens, are always enlisted with those of any nation earnestly engaged in the assertion of its liberty and independence. They hold the right of self government to be inherent in every people; and whenever they see, in any oppressed country, the banners of freedom unfurled, their anxious solicitudes, their best wishes, their most fervent hopes, attend the efforts of that country to relieve itself from the fetters of tyranny and oppression.

The attention of the Grand Jury has also been specially attracted to a complaint, that a combination was entered into some months ago, in this city by certain British subjects and others, to the effect that in the event of a war between the United States and Great Britain, the persons engaged in the alleged combination would enter the British service and assist the enemy to subdue the arms of this nation in battle. A great number of witnesses have been examined on this subject. The only evidence, except rumor, which the Grand Jury have been able to obtain of the reality of the charge is a letter written by a British subject in Detroit to another in Toronto, dated in December, 1837, in which the writer states, in substance, that in case of a war, between two and three hundred persons had agreed to join the British against the United States. Called, however, before the Grand Jury, this person admitted that he had written such a letter, but stated that he knew nothing of the fact himself having derived his information from another individual. That individual, upon his examination, said that he had been invited to sign an agreement in writing, giving the pledge to join the British in case of a war, but that he had not seen the agreement. The person alleged to have given this invitation declares upon oath, that he neither invited that nor any other individual to sign such an agreement, nor does he know of the existence of any agreement, verbal or written, of the kind. He admitted that he had expressed the opinion, that in the event of a war between the two nations, four or five hundred British subjects, on this side, would go over and join the British standard on the other side; that he would himself do so, because he was a British subject; and that he believed about one hundred and fifty persons, he among them, did go over, during the late troubles on this frontier. His testimony, however, was very vague and general as to individuals, implicating no citizen, native or naturalized, in the nefarious intentions imputed to some, nor any British subject either of respectability or known to this community generally. He himself went over in his business capacity.

Another complaint was incidentally brought to the notice of the Grand Jury. It was stated that a young gentleman, in respectable standing, had called upon a colored person in this city to induce him and other persons of the same description, to unite and take up arms on the side of the British government, in case of war. The Grand Jury have been able, neither from the two individuals in question, nor from any source, to obtain one particle of truth of the complaint.

Upon the whole, the Grand jury have been unable to found any further proceeding upon the information received on these subjects, than to remark, that the names of a few of our most honest and faithful naturalized citizens have been coupled with those imputed transactions, and that they have, no doubt truly, disowned all agency in any thing of the kind, expressing the utmost indignation at the imputation, as well as towards the object of the alleged conspiracy. The Grand Jury further anxiously hope, that foreign subjects, who have neither been nor intend to be naturalized, but who have, for years, enjoyed the pro-